

the ground. In forest country it may climb into trees, where it hides so securely that even so alert a creature as a monkey is frequently taken unawares and meets its death, or the snake, with the help of its prehensile tail, suspends itself partly from the branches like a great aerial root, and from this position strikes at the unsuspecting quarry passing below. The element of surprise is part of the attack and the prey is seized and enmeshed in the coils before it is able to realise what has happened.—Eds.]

### XVIII.—AN INSTANCE OF 'VIVIPARITY' IN *MABUYA CARINATA* (SCHN.).

Malcolm A. Smith<sup>1</sup> in describing the habits of *Mabuya carinata* says 'It is usually stated that this skink is viviparous, but such is not the case. A female kept by Father Dreckmann in captivity laid twenty-three eggs; from another female he recovered twenty-two eggs. All are about the same size—about 13 by 8 mm.; none of those examined showed any trace of embryo'. My observations show that *Mabuya carinata* is ovoviviparous. Some years back I came across, one morning in a school garden, a partly mutilated skink. On opening the body of the animal I found a number of eggs all of which showed developing embryos. I could observe closely the heart beat and circulation of blood. The stage of development roughly corresponded to a three-day-old chick embryo. Two of these embryos which I stained and mounted are still with me.

Subsequently I came across a case of oviparity in a skink in Annamalainagar. The egg clutch is now in the Zoology Laboratory of the Annamalai University.

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### XIX.—A SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF THE PYRALIDAE OF CALCUTTA.

Some time back (*Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, xxxviii, p. 204) I recorded 91 species of Pyralidae taken in Calcutta. One species, *Ercta elutalis*, Wlk., must be deleted from this list, the specimen in question being a particularly pale example of *Ercta ornatalis*, Dup., and two species, *Ramila marginella*, Moore and *Ceratarcha umbrosa*, Swinh. must be corrected to *Ramila acciusalis*, Wlk. and *Phryganodes analis*, Snell.

I now add a further 33 species, bringing the total to 123 to date.  
*Mucialla rufivena*, Wlk.  
*Crambus atkinsoni*, Zell.  
*Platytes argentisparsalis*, Hmps.  
*Scirpophaga bisignata*, Swinh.

<sup>1</sup> *Fauna of British India Reptilia and Amphibia* (Vol. ii) by Malcolm A. Smith. (New series.)